Name: Shannon Gibson Date: 10/19/13 Block: 3

Directions:

* Research each of the following topics
* Write brief summary of the event in your own word
* Analyze the significance of each Event

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| Event: | Summary: | Significance |
| May, 1954: Battle of Dien Bien Phu | French defeated in Dien Bien Phu, a small mountain out post near the border of Laos after a 57 day siege of the city by Ho Chi Minh troops. The French thought their superior air support would protect them | Defeat brought and end to French colonial positions in Indochina. The U.S. stepped in to fill the vacuum after the departure of the French.  The defeat of the French was seen as a great victory in Vietnam. A nation of superior strength had been defeated. |
| July, 1954: Geneva Accords: | Stated that Vietnam was to become an independent nation. Elections were to be held in 1956 under international supervision. During the two years prior to elections the country was to be divided in two parts along the 17th parallel. Viet Minh soldiers were to go North and those who fought for the French were to go South. This agreement called for North Vietnam togive up a great deal of land they possessed for years, but they were sure they would win the election in 1956 | The Geneva Accords were the result of a meeting between many countries in 1954. French-Indochina and Korena decided to restore peace at that time, which produced the Geneva Accords treaties which outlined territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Indochina. This was what gave the country it's independence. |
| October, 1955: South Vietnam declares itself the Republic of Vietnam | Using the referendum results from the referendum that occurred a few days before as justification, Diem proclaimed South Vietnam as Vietnam's republic, with himself as president. | This is significant as it signified a crucial step in marking and deepening the United State’s involvement in Vietnam. |
| December 1960 National Liberation Front (NFL) also called Viet Cong established  August, 1964: Gulf of Tonkin Incident | Hanoi establishes the National front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, known as the National Liberation Front, which reaches out to all of those who are disaffected with Diem. It was designed to replicate the Viet Minh as an umbrella nationalist organization.  A patrol to Vietnam was launched. Destroyer USS Maddox was the engager of the 3 N. Vietnamese torpedo boats of the 135th torpedo squadron. The Maddox expended, due to the sea battle resulting. 3 of the N. Vietnamese torpedo boats were damaged, 1 US aircraft was damaged, 4 N. Vietnamese sailors were killed, 6 were wounded, and there were not United States casualties. | This is significant due to the fact that it was a major topic on world media for weeks at a time, including it being overextended. It was also significant as the winning side emerged.  This is significant because it was what lead to a greater number of troops in Vietnam, and was the first large scale involvement with the United State’s troops. |
| August, 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution | A resolution authorizing all necessary measures to repel attacks against the US air forces was passed by congress, and all the necessary steps for the safety of the US soldiers in S. Vietnam were included. | This is significant in the fact that N. Vietnam actually denied ever attacking the United States’ ships, and President Johnson was caught admitting that he doubted that the attack ever occurred, to McNamara. |
| March, 1965 Operation Rolling Thunder | The longest air campaign in American military history, from March 1965 to November 1968 during the Vietnam War, when combined U.S. forces flew more than two million sorties and dropped over one million tons of bombs on North Vietnam. Its goals were to demoralize the North Vietnamese, take out their logistical support, and to raise the morale of political and military elites of South Vietnam. | This operation started in 1965, and even though it was only supposed to last for 8 weeks; it did not end until 1968. This also costed the United States almost 900 million dollars. |
| January, 1965: Tet Offensive: | The North broke the cease fire agreement, as the United States came to a realization that their traditional warfare tactics did not work as well as they had hoped against guerilla forces. | This is significant because over 100 major cities in the South were attacked by communists, and the North never actually successfully gained control over and part of the South. Almost 45,000 communist soldiers were lost. |
| March, 1968: Mai Lai Massacre | This was when a group of angry American soldiers entered the town of Mai Lai and murdered its people, otherwise known as the “search and destroy mission”. Women and children who were unarmed were a large percentage of the murder victims, in this series of cold, outrageous murders. | This is significant because it ended as a warrant officer (Thompson) ordered the soldiers to all cease fire as he landed his helicopter. Also, a campaign was created by one of the soldiers to allow these series of events to become more recognized. |
| July, 1968: General Westmoreland replaced by General Creighton Abrams in Vietnam | Westmorland was criticized for being too liberal, as they returned home, and also hoped that Vietnam operations were being winded down. | This is significant because of the criticism put forth towards Westmorland, despite his efforts to the histories made throughout the war. He was being criticized by the public of the United States, and our government officials. |
| September, 1969: Ho Chi Minh Dies: | Ho Chi Minh dies due to a heart attack, which was released to the public the next day by N. Vietnamese officials. | This is significant due to the inspiration he offered to people throughout the course of his life. He was looked upon as a leader of inspiration, and played an essential role in the upbringing of Vietnam. |
| June, 1071: Portion of the Pentagon Papers published | The publication of the Pentagon Papers is begun by The New York Times, which provides a secret Pentagon analysis of the United States involvement of Indochina, which was three-decades long. | This is significant due to the fact that it was the main factor that caused the public of the United States to distress their government. |
| January, 1973: Paris Peace Accords signed | An agreement was signed to end the war, and resulted in the restorement of peace in Vietnam. | This was significant as this meeting was what declared Vietnam their victory in the war, and the anger that the Southerners had with their loss in the war. |
| April, 1975: South Vietnam surrenders to Communists | After being abandoned by the American government, South Vietnam surrenders to North Vietnam. This wasn’t necessarily seen as a victory of the North over the South, but as a victory over the United States. | This is significant due to the surrendering of South Vietnam because of being left by the United States and having their territory under captivity. Their fate basically lied in the hands of the US. |
| July, 1976: Vietnam is unified as a Communist country ( socialist Republic of Vietnam | The fighting continued in Vietnam, even after the United States had withdrawn all of its troops. The South of Vietnam surrendered to their North, as the United States was their main source of power. | This is significant due to the fact that the United States abandoning the South, allowed the North and South Vietnamese to come to an agreement that the United States was the true enemy. |

**Illustration Events:**

* **Ganeva Accords (July 1954) -** I would create an illustration of various things that signify independence, since that is what the intentions of this was, and what it resulted in. I would include two people shaking hands, as it was also a way to restore peace at that time.
* **Operation Rolling Thunder (March 1965) -** I would create an illustration that involves a lot of money and a ticking clock, as this costed the United States more money than we could imagine, and the estimated time period turned out to be way shorter than this event actually was.
* **Paris Peace Accords signed (January 1973) -** I would create an illustration that includes a type of metal, to incorporate the crowned victory received by Vietnam in the war. I would also include angry Southerners along the side looking angry, as they soak up their loss in the war.
* **Vietnam is unified as a Communist country (July 1976) -** I would create an illustration of the United States walking away from the South Vietnamese, and the South Vietnamese having a devastating reaction and begging on their knees to the North, as they were surrendering to them. I would then show the North and South together aiming guns at the US, as they recognize that the US was their enemy all along.
* **General Westmoreland replaced by General Creighton Abrams in Vietnam (July 1968) -** I would create an illustration of Westmoreland alone in a corner with people surrounding him, as a way to demonstrate the criticisms being thrown at him, regardless of all that he has contributed to in this war.